

Grammar Reteaching

Name Class Date

16.3-4 Special Subjects

Key Information

Sometimes it is difficult to decide whether the subject is singular or plural. If the subject is a collective noun such as *committee*, decide whether the group is acting as a single unit. If it is, use the singular form of the verb.

The committee reaches a decision. (singular)

If the subject refers to a group whose individual members are acting separately, use the plural form of the verb.

The committee mark their ballots. (plural)

Some indefinite pronouns may be either singular or plural. When pronouns such as *all*, *any*, *most*, *none*, and *some* are used as subjects and are followed by a prepositional phrase, the form of the verb should agree with the object of the preposition.

Most of the trees **are** pines. (plural) **Most** of the forest **is** pine. (singular)

Directions

Write the form of the verb that agrees with each subject in the space provided.

is The eighth grade (is, are) in charge of the election.

- _____ 1. The class (votes, vote) individually by secret ballot on a special project each year.
- _____ 2. The student council (has, have) agreed to support a collection center.
- _____ 3. A committee (is, are) being formed to manage the center.
- _____ 4. The committee (is, are) discussing who will receive the incoming cans.
- _____ 5. The faculty (volunteers, volunteer) their time to help manage the center.
- _____ 6. The group (is, are) going to receive the awards, one by one.
- _____ 7. Somebody on the committee (comes, come) to school every Saturday.
- _____ 8. Several at the park (agrees, agree) to sign up on a regular basis.
- _____ 9. All of the football players (has, have) taken their turns.
- _____ 10. All of the parking area (was, were) filled.

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16.5 Agreement with Compound Subjects

Key Information

A **compound subject** contains two simple subjects that have the same verb. If the simple subjects are connected by *and* or by *both* . . . *and*, the subject is plural and is used with the plural form of the verb. If the simple subjects are joined by *or*, *either* . . . *or*, or *neither* . . . *nor*, the verb should agree with the subject that is closer to it.

- Luis and Tanya **are** leaving on vacation.
Bill or Eric **is** the team captain.
Either the twins or their sister **collects** stamps.

Directions

In the following sentences, underline the simple subjects once and the conjunctions twice. Then write the correct form of the verb in the space provided.

Australia and New Zealand (is, are) in the Southern Hemisphere.
Australia and New Zealand (is, are) in the Southern Hemisphere. *are*

1. Overhunting and destruction of habitats (is, are) endangering many species of grassland animals. _____
2. Both kangaroos and wallabies (is, are) threatened with extinction. _____
3. Neither the farmer nor the rancher (wants, want) kangaroos to graze nearby. _____
4. The baby cheetahs and their mother (is, are) prey to stronger animals. _____
5. A lion or a hyena (follows, follow) the smell of other animals. _____
6. Neither cheetahs nor any other cats (runs, run) far. _____
7. Either farms or a city (has, have) intruded on their habitat. _____
8. Squirrels and foxes (makes, make) holes that can be used as homes for owls. _____
9. A tree or holes in the ground (serves, serve) as shelter for the burrowing owl. _____
10. Both chemical pesticides and decreased farmland (accounts, account) for the threat to the burrowing owl. _____